

**Lower Chattahoochee Soil & Water District**  
**Annual Plan of Work – Fiscal Year (FY) 2024**  
**7/1/2023 – 6/30/2024**

**District Identity:**

The Lower Chattahoochee Soil and Water Conservation District was constituted as an agency of State Government on July 17<sup>th</sup> 1939 by the authority and under provision of the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation District Law of 1937. The Board is made up of farmers, landowners, and land-users that are dedicated to the conservation, development, and protection of natural resources. The District is comprised of Clay, Lee, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Stewart, Sumter, Terrell & Webster Counties. Two supervisors from each county, one elected and one appointed, make up the eighteen-member Board. Currently there are twelve-members serving.

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 11:00 p.m. at The Back Porch restaurant in Shellman, GA, unless published otherwise. Demonstrations, tours, and special meetings are held periodically with notification given as to time and location.

**Current Board of Supervisors:**

**Clay**

Rodney Isler  
Patrick Shiver

**Lee**

Riley McRee  
Thomas Summers

**Quitman**

Ralph Balkom  
George Cathrall

**Randolph**

Hiram Bo Beard (Chairman)  
Frankie Sauls

**Schley**

Vacant  
Vacant

**Stewart**

Vacant  
Vacant

**Sumter**

William Bowen  
Vacant

**Terrell**

Brian Goolsby (Treasurer)  
Mark Masters (Vice-Chairman)

**Webster**

Andrew Payne  
Vacant

**District Staff:**

Judith Northcutt, Program Assistant

**Georgia Association of Conservation Districts:**

Leanne Hopper, Regional Program Manager – Southwest Georgia

**Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission:**

Ben Roberts Conservation Regional Manager, Region 5

Amelia Nystrom, Resource Specialist, Region 5

**Major Objectives:**

This Annual Plan of Work establishes the major objectives for the Lower Chattahoochee Soil and Water Conservation District for the Fiscal Year 2024. The following objectives will be planned, developed, and implemented under partnership with the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Golden Triangle RC&D.

1. **Natural Resources Conservation** – Work with government agencies and conservation organizations to assist in planning, developing, and implementing conservation programs. Provide local direction and priorities for government technical assistance. Support habitat, agricultural and urban conservation throughout the district through the following action items:

- To support conservation the district will apply for a 319 grant of no more than \$300,000 to support recovery of imperiled watershed(s) within the district.
  - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Meet with 2 Local Issuing Authorities (LIA) within the district per FY to promote the benefits of a Memorandum of Agreement between the LIA and the District.
  - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Recruit 2 new private land-users/owners to apply best management practices (BMPs) that provide conservation benefits to soil, water, and/or wildlife habitat, within the district.
  - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Work with the Georgia Forestry Commission to get 2 new landowners to establish pine trees on marginal cropland to promote wildlife habitat.
  - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Meet with 2 local units of government to promote using various forms of BMPs to better control storm runoff, promoting urban conservation through the use of rain gardens, pollinator gardens, etc.
  - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Increase Hog control efforts within the district by increasing the number of hog custodians operating in the district by 1 and purchasing equipment as necessary.
  - **Budget: \$3,000**
- Have all open supervisor positions filled within 1 year of them being opened.
  - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Establish 1 new program to raise funds for conservation projects in the District.
  - **Estimated Income: \$3,000**
- Increase awareness of conservation programs that are available through local, state and federal agencies by increasing the number of outside organizations reporting or attending District Meetings.
  - **Budget: \$0.00**

**Total Conservation Budget: \$3,000.00**

2. **Education & Outreach** – The SWCD should strive to provide conservation education opportunities throughout the district. Through partnerships with other conservation groups plan, develop, and implement seminars, programs, contests, etc. used for the purpose of conservation education to accomplish the following action items:

- Increase the visibility of the District in other counties by acquaint farmers, land-users and government agencies with methods for protecting soil and water resources, through sponsoring and conducting 4 demonstrations, tours, workshops and field days in covering soil health, water conservation, urban agriculture, and habitat management.
  - **Budget: \$2,000.00**
- Host Level 1A, 1B and 2 certification classes for Local Issuing Authorities and contractors working under the *Erosion and Sedimentation Control Law* of Georgia
  - **Budget: \$1,000.00 (District gets the income @ \$150-275 per person)**
  - **Estimated Income: \$3,500**
- Promote the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop at ABAC by actively recruiting and sponsor at least 4 students within the district. Tuition and transportation to the workshop will be paid from state allotment funds or from outside sources.
  - **Budget: \$1,100.00**
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**Total Education & Outreach Budget: \$4,100**

**3. Public Relations, Supervisor Travel/Training & Misc.** – Create public awareness of District conservation programs and objectives. Keep the general public informed on conservation issues and concerns through the following action items:

- Pay GACD, NACD & Golden Triangle Membership Dues for upcoming FY.
  - **Budget: \$2,625**
- Sponsor 3 Supervisors to attend the GACD annual meeting current FY (Note: state allotment cannot pay for hotel fees)
  - **Budget: \$2,500**
- Review and approve all Erosion & Sediment Control Plans for developments within the jurisdiction of Local Issuing Authorities within the District as required under **The Erosion and Sedimentation Control Law** of Georgia.
  - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Develop and distribute an Annual Report on District accomplishments at the end of the fiscal year.
  - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Check all District boundary signs; Purchase and/or replace as needed.
  - **Budget: \$350** (= 1 new sign per county)
- Have at least 1 elected official, local, state and/or federal, attend all District functions in order to make them aware of conservation concerns, programs, and accomplishments.
  - **Budget: \$0.00**
- Increase knowledge about the rental equipment the District offers to farmers and land-users by creating and distributing a publication.
  - **Budget: \$150**
- Promote Soil and Water Stewardship Week by purchasing and distributing materials to educate the public to the need of managing and protecting soil and water resources.
  - **Budget: \$0.00**

**Total PR & Info Budget: \$5,625**

**4. Watershed Inspections and Maintenance** – Carry out watershed inspections and maintenance in the District. Work to prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, control floods, and assist in maintaining the navigability of rivers in the District. Work towards the development of an Emergency Watershed Program.

**TOTAL EXPENSE BUDGET: \$12,725**

**TOTAL INCOME BUDGET: \$6,500.00 (to the District)**

**TOTAL STATE ALLOCATION: \$10,936.00**